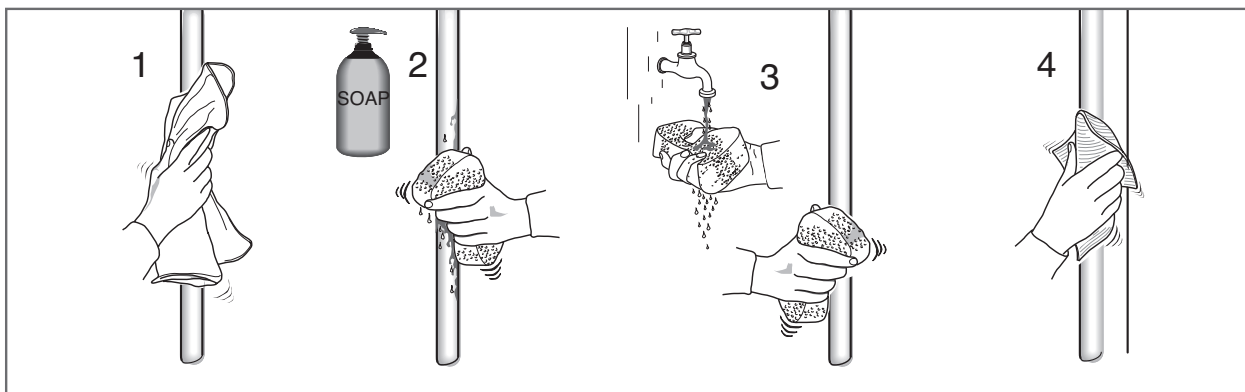
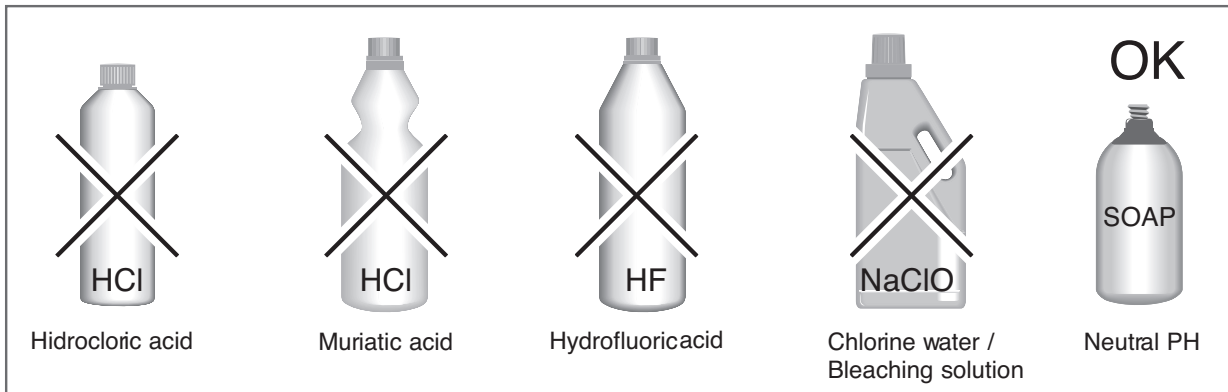


STAINLESS STEEL CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE



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Introduction:

Stainless steels are naturally corrosion-resistant materials without the need for further processing or surface protection. Their anti-corrosion capacity is given by the alloy elements present in the steel which form a thin (a few microns) protective, invisible, transparent and self-healing layer. This invisible layer is recreated every time the surface of the steel is scratched or damaged, recreating itself in contact with air or water above the exposed surface.

Stainless steels are divided into several categories according to the percentage of elements combined in the production phase (e.g. AISI 304, AISI 316). The last-mentioned, 316, is used mainly in chemistry due to its resistance to acidic agents. Even if naturally protected, to keep the surfaces in good condition, a normal cleaning maintenance (with appropriate products) is still necessary so that the external appearance and corrosion resistance are not compromised by the normal aging process.

Maintenance Cleaning:

When cleaning any stainless steel product, it should be noted that **there are several products on the market specifically designed to remove dirt on stainless steel surfaces without causing damage to the external appearance**. On polished surfaces, the main problem detected is that of the fingerprints left by operators or technicians.

To clean these and other impurities from the surface **just use Water and Soap or alternatively a mild, non-acid or corrosive detergent**. There are sprays or liquids on the market that prevent the appearance of such stains. On brushed or satin surfaces, cleaning process is to be considered as for the polished model even if the presence of fingerprints on such surfaces will be less frequent and noticeable.

CLEANING PRODUCTS

WHAT TO DO:

As mentioned above, the best way to clean stainless steel is to **use Water and Soap and wipe it with a clean cloth**. Often, however, the surfaces have **stains that are difficult to remove with the simple use of Water and Soap, such as oil, grease, paint, or simply fingerprints**. To simplify your maintenance work, there are many steel cleaning products on the market with more or less cleaning power. All these products are designed to clean, polish or remove stains from stainless surfaces without damaging the surface itself.

Alcohol, mild detergents and other steel-specific detergents can help you in the most difficult situations. In case of persistent stains, you can use detergents based on phosphoric acid, remembering to rinse with deionized water and dry the clean surface with a soft cloth. If the stains are caused by contact with corrosive substances or substances particularly resistant to all types of detergents, it is possible to use slightly invasive products such as polishing paste used on vehicles or products for chrome materials. This type of intervention must be carried out with care and on the entire surface of the product as it is abrasive and could create matt areas or scratch the surfaces.

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NOTE:

Important: always remember to use certified products and suitable equipment for the work you are carrying out. Above all, before a potentially harmful intervention or that you do not fully understand, contact your supplier for clarification and advice.

TO BE AVOIDED:

Even if stainless steel is a very resistant material, **this does not mean that no product can ruin it. Some Acids or Corrosive Substances can irreparably affect the external appearance of the steel. Some examples of products NOT TO BE USED: CLORIDRIC ACID, HYPOCHLORIC ACID BLEACHING SOLUTIONS, CHLORIDES in general.** Always remember that stainless steel in contact with these substances can create surface stains that are difficult to remove. Even the surface resistance to rust can be affected as a consequence.

CLEANING INTERVALS:

The cleaning process of stainless steel products does not differ from that of similar articles in other materials. Regular and careful cleaning will guarantee your product a long life and an always excellent appearance.

CAUTION:

If the product is exposed to special conditions such as Marine Atmospheres, environments loaded with anti-ice salt, environments with polluting agents or particularly exposed to traffic, etc., **it is advisable to carry out shorter cleaning intervals (e.g. every 3-4 weeks).**